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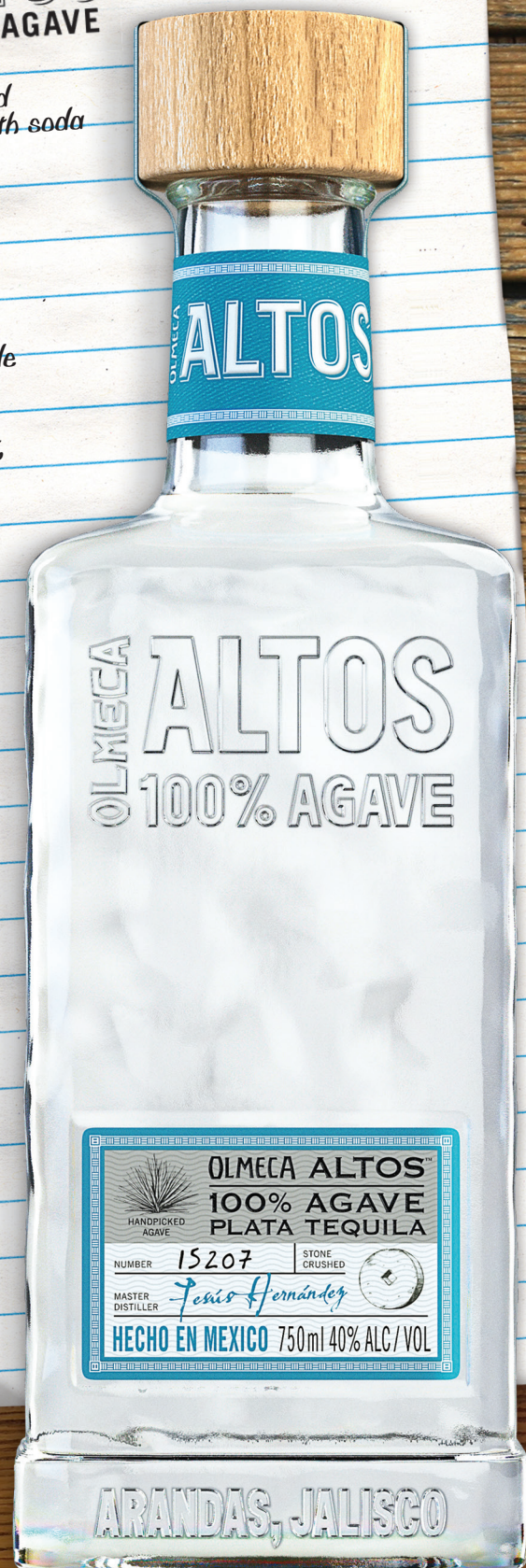
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Dysfunction in the Ramsey County Jail leaves two sheriffs colliding *By Susan Du*

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THE SHORTLIST

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THE STAT SHEET

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is paying a consultant to root out
the leaker of a police ketamine report

\$32 trillion

Projected cost
of Medicare-for-all
over a 10-year period

\$49 trillion

Cost of our current health care system
over a 10-year period

“How many of these protesters who won’t live or work in north Minneapolis because of the perceived danger would themselves call the cops on an intoxicated man carrying a bottle of gin and randomly shooting a gun in Uptown?”

Reader Mark Anderson responds to “Fox 9 left out lead-up to Minneapolis protester’s punches,” at citypages.com.

PONZI SCHEME

THE NEXT TIME Minnesota Republican Congressmen Tom Emmer, Jason Lewis, and Erik Paulsen claim to be “fiscal conservatives,” feel free to let loose your merriest chortle. All three voted for corporate tax cuts that raised the deficit by \$242 billion this year.

The cuts were supposed to pay for themselves by boosting wages and productivity. Instead, almost all have gone to executives and shareholders, creating record corporate profits.

In the meantime, only 4 percent of U.S. workers received raises or one-time bonuses from the measure.

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AT CITYPAGES.COM

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HOMELESS MINNEAPOLIS MAN jumps into Mississippi, saves Washington Avenue bridge jumper

FOX 9 left out lead-up to Minneapolis protester’s punches [VIDEO]

ICE AGENTS seize longtime Minnesotan at Ramsey County Courthouse [VIDEO]

Minneapolis poet **ANDERS CARLSON-WEE** ‘profoundly regretful’ about poem everyone hated

FEALTY IN RETREAT

How did Tim Walz get his A rating from the NRA?



GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE

In 2008, Minnesota Democratic Congressman Tim Walz was congratulating the United States Supreme Court for decreeing the District of Columbia's ban on carrying concealed firearms unconstitutional.

"Gun ownership is a basic right in America, not to be infringed upon by anyone or any government entity," he said in a statement. "It is a victory that gun-owners, hunters, sportsmen, and everyday Americans waited too long for."

Later that year, he earned an A rating from the NRA "because of his unwavering pro-gun support," according to Chris Cox, then-chairman of the NRA Political Victory Fund. The organization endorsed his reelection campaign, and would do so again in 2010 and 2012.

A decade ago, gubernatorial candidate Tim Walz was among the most zealous pro-gun members of Congress.

Walz is now running for Minnesota governor in an age defined by a long string of mass shootings in schools and churches. Supporting gun control is a growing part of the liberal party line, and Walz—who made his name representing Minnesota's conservative southern district—is being forced to reckon with his old NRA ties.

He's done so by pointing to a recent history of supporting "common sense" measures, like backing universal background checks, funding gun control research, and banning bump stocks. He has also donated the \$18,000 he received from the NRA to charity. The NRA recently gave him a new grade: F. He characterizes his past support as a hunter and military veteran standing up for Minnesota's grand tradition in firearms.

"I know many gun-owning Minnesotans still think of the organization [the NRA] as it was when I was growing up: as an advocate for sportsmen and women that held gun-safety classes," he wrote in the Star Tribune. The current NRA is different—obstructionist and irresponsible. He can no longer accept its support.

It's not certain what the NRA once saw in Walz. The group uses question-

naires to grade politicians. So Students Demand Action Minnesota, a grassroots group pushing for gun control, asked Walz if they could see how he answered the questionnaires.

Walz stonewalled, saying he has no plans to release them. Nor did he respond to specific questions on his record, which means it's impossible to know how he answered the questionnaires. But a 2008 version leaked to City Pages reveals the kinds of positions Walz presumably agreed with.

It's 27 items long. Much of it's a gun rights wish list, like opposing federal background checks for gun show vendors; fighting bans on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines and .50 caliber weapons; and keeping owners from having to register firearms.

These are the kinds of questions Walz faced in the NRA's eyes. He would continue to make good on his fealty as late as last year, when he voted to give veterans deemed "mentally incompetent" the right to purchase firearms.

There isn't much evidence showing the NRA has changed as an organization. Whether or not Walz has is unclear. —HANNAH JONES



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Goodbye, Good Neighbor?

WCCO Radio tests an ugly, right-wing mid-morning future

“You’ve been catnip to the ladies,” Star Tribune gossip columnist C.J. cooed last week, “seducing them with your mellifluous, sexy voice.”

John Hines shot back: “Then they see the balding, hard-of-hearing reality.”

The self-deprecating college dropout with the million-dollar voice has graced radio waves with those honeyed tones for 45 years, the last nine with WCCO.

When he first got to WCCO, Hines sometimes riffed on the hot topics of the day. His takes didn’t exactly set phone lines alight.

“But then he would talk about the best way to get from St. Paul to northeast Minneapolis, in traffic, and people just loved it,” recalls board operator Christopher Ellston.

Hines’ political philosophy, if he has one, Ellston sums up as: Discrimination is wrong, and you should speak out when you see it.

When Hines signs off from daily radio next month, his listeners will miss him. And they, in turn, will be missed by WCCO, if the station takes the hard-right lurch foreshadowed by on-air auditions for Hines’ seat.

First up: Rob Carson, a Chaska native who had a short run on KS95 in the mid-1990s, later hosted shows in Ohio and Missouri, and is currently a “self-employed podcaster.”

His Tuesday show came one day after it was announced that no charges would be filed in the police shooting of Thurman Blevins. Carson marked the solemn news

by saying it “is not uncommon in inner cities for ...African-American men to begin a spiral, a chain of crimes, some becoming more violent, more dangerous.”

Other insights: America’s racial divide “started in the last presidential administration”; black NFL players’ “First Amendment rights do not matter” when they’re at work; ousted Papa John’s CEO John Schattner was “goaded” into using the n-word; it’s unfair only blacks get to say that word; and: “I like Papa John’s pizza!”

Carson was holding back. Last year, his podcast aired a joke song called “Oh Tranny Boy.” In May, he called the people of the Middle East “Third World mindless monkeys from the seventh century.”

On Thursday, WCCO gave the mic to Bob Davis, the host who once told parents of slaughtered children in Newtown, Connecticut that his losing Second Amendment rights would be a “greater tragedy than [their] loss,” and to “go to hell.”

Davis informed WCCO’s listeners he was a changed man. Then this kinder, gentler Bob Davis said “there’s too much government,” no one wants a “bike trail in [their] backyard,” and there is no “fact-driven media anymore.”

Why did the station that fashions itself “The Good Neighbor” give a combined 12 hours of airtime to toxic characters you’d prefer were kept six zip codes away?

Meet Andy Bloom, hired in April as operations manager of WCCO and its sister music

stations. A Minneapolis native, Bloom most recently ran a set of sports-and-talk stations out of Philadelphia. Before that, he was communications director for a Republican Congressman from Ohio.

Bloom doesn’t hide his politics: Earlier this year he was writing for Newsmax, the hard-right news outlet, about how gun laws “will make some people feel better, but won’t prevent shootings,” and why Donald Trump is wise to admire Andrew Jackson.

Bloom says he’s not out to convert anyone, unless you mean getting them to buy the sponsors’ products. In scouting John Hines’ replacement, Bloom says: “My only interest is getting someone that will generate an audience.”

An internal memo Bloom sent shows where he thinks the audience is.

“The fact is, the majority of News-Talk radio listeners are center-right,” Bloom wrote, advising his staff to “stop chasing off the Right” by giving “info-mercials” to guests with “left-leaning agendas.”

Bloom claims ignorance of any “shock-jock” material from Rob Carson, and cited the candidate’s radio experience: “He, for many years, wrote for Rush Limbaugh.” Carson’s and Davis’ auditions are about “seeking a diversity of opinions.” And? “I thought both Rob and Bob did particularly good jobs.”

They’re just two among “hundreds” of qualified candidates under consideration, Bloom says. He notes that current



Mike Mullen

WCCO figures Blois Olson and Roshini Rajkumar—both milder-mannered than Carson or Davis—had also auditioned.

“This is a really difficult choice,” Bloom says. “Openings here at WCCO do not happen frequently.”

Hines says Bloom had nothing to do with his decision, and says he’ll be back “as often as they would like to invite me.”

He hasn’t given much thought to who might take his job—“it’s no longer mine, and in the big picture, it was never mine.”

Even if it’s a right-wing firebreather?

He sighed. “If somebody thinks that will be successful, that that’s the way to go in the future, more power to them,” Hines said, adding: “I’m just the announcer guy. I don’t have a judgment or a value to put on any of that.”

Hines was apologetic.

“You’re probably looking for something more, but I’m not the guy,” he said. “Other people will probably have stronger opinions.”

Anyone who heard last week’s auditions misses him already. **CM**

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7 PM

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7 PM

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Halfway through the mid-night shift on an early winter morning, St. Paul Police dropped a 22-year-old man at the Ramsey County Jail. He'd been kicked out of Doc's Landing in White Bear Lake for allegedly shouting at a woman in the bar.

As the intoxicated inmate waited to be processed, he became increasingly agitated. He called out to correctional officers about the status of his charges. They ordered him to sit down and wait his turn.

According to reports from five jailers staffing the booking area, he singled out CO Jason Flahave, demanding to know why the "smallest guy" in the room was telling him to be quiet.

Finally, the inmate was called. As he walked past Flahave, he leaned in and whispered something no one else could hear.

In a flash, Flahave shoved the inmate against the wall, where he cracked his head against a window. Three other jailers forced him to the ground.

Sgt. Amber Gray, Flahave's wife, sprinted from an adjacent room. She pressed a taser against the inmate's back as he was cuffed.

According to Flahave, the inmate had threatened to "beat [his] little ass."

But a supervisor thought he overreacted. The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office referred the case to the Minneapolis city attorney, who charged Flahave with assault. The prosecutors' argument: Because the inmate had already gone through metal detectors, the guard couldn't reasonably believe he was in danger.

Flahave was placed on administrative leave.

In the sedentary months that followed, Flahave began to spiral. He'd sit at home in a stew of stress, ruminating on his chances of finding another career at age 38 without a college degree. He'd ask Gray if she planned to leave him once he lost his job. She'd call in sick on the days he'd weep and fantasize about how the world would be better off without him. She was terrified of leaving her gun in the house.

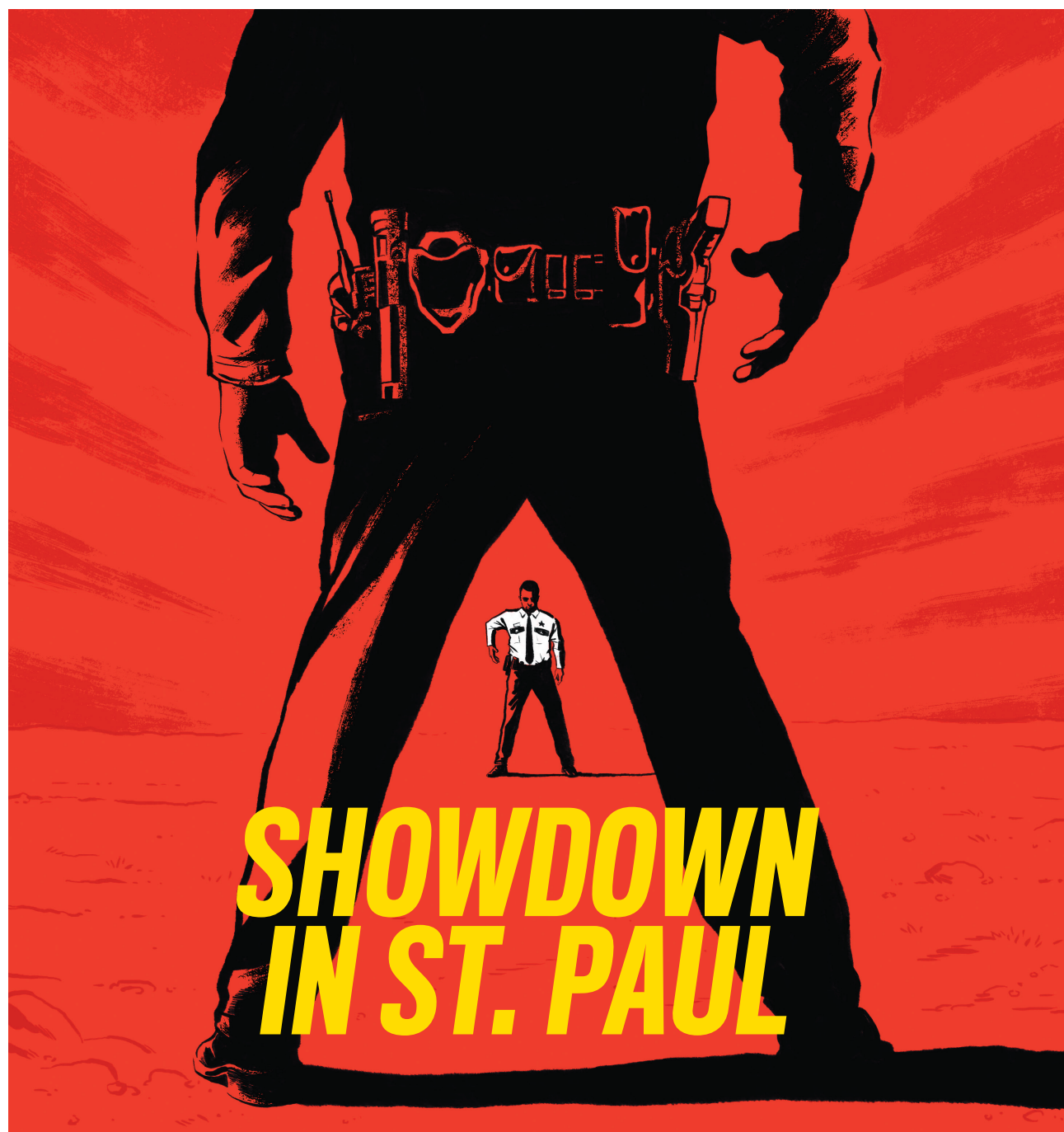
Flahave also had spinal stenosis—pinching nerve pain in the lower back—which led to an overreliance on prescription fentanyl.

One night in January, Gray woke in the middle of the night to find her husband bare-chested and uncovered. She nudged him to pull on a shirt, lest he catch a cold. Flahave didn't respond. He was cold to the touch.

She panicked and slapped him in the face. A fentanyl patch fell out of his mouth.

Six months after her husband's overdose, Gray spends her weekends in Isanti with her mother, who suffered a stroke. A pack of rescue dogs has the run of the porch.

"I hate my life. It sucks. I miss him every day," she says icily behind a pair of over-



Two sheriffs clash over dysfunction in the Ramsey County Jail

sized sunglasses. "And I still have to go into that place because I work there.... That's where we met."

There are important things to understand about the years of struggle that preceded her husband's excessive force complaint, Gray says.

The sheriff's office, like agencies the nation over, faced intense pressure to reduce its use of force. At the same time, it failed to provide realistic alternatives for defusing the skirmishes and ambushes that arise in jail, she says.

Last year, COs didn't receive their state-mandated use-of-force training. A staff exodus forced jailers to work thousands of hours in overtime. Without reinforcements, they couldn't take bathroom breaks or let inmates out to stretch their legs. There was no one to spare for annual training.

Guards complained about the lack of instruction and conditions that left them with little chance to care for the dignity of people in custody.

They lay these problems at the feet Sheriff Jack Serier.

II. DYNASTIC FEUDS

For 16 years, the sheriff's office was the domain of former St. Paul police officer Bob Fletcher, whose old-school leadership earned him a folkloric reputation as a cop's cop. He was known for rolling up his sleeves when jail staffing ran thin, patrolling cell blocks and talking to inmates.

He also had a pocketful of ambitious ideas, which perforated his career with controversies.

Fletcher's brainchild, the Metro Gang Strike Force, conducted important investiga-

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Bob Fletcher

BEN GARVIN

tions of suspected gang members. However, it also lost track of evidence and confiscated cars, cash, and other valuables from people who were never charged with crimes. Two of his investigators went to prison for pocketing wads of drug money under FBI surveillance.

Prior to the 2008 Republican National Convention, Fletcher took heat for raiding anarchist headquarters, seizing boxes of pamphlets and buttons protected by the First Amendment. Protests culminated in the mass arrest of activists and journalists.

He warred with the Ramsey County Board, once suing commissioners for cutting his budget. He was seen as answerable to no one.

By contrast, his successors were glaringly tame.

Matt Bostrom, another former St. Paul cop and son of longtime Councilman Dan Bostrom, ousted Fletcher in 2010 with a campaign capitalizing on rumors of cronyism.

Casting himself as a restorer of trust, Bostrom was a scholar with all the gentility the county board could hope for. He had a taste for theories about professionalizing police, believing that people were born either with or without good character; they couldn't be taught. So the sheriff's office would recruit people with intrinsic reserves of honesty and responsibility, then train them to be competent.

According to many jailers who spoke to City Pages anonymously for fear of retaliation, Bostrom's "character-based" hiring was subjective. And it insulted some by implying that officers who predated his takeover lacked basic decency.

The new recruits tended to be young and college-educated, without detention experience, but with plenty of ambition to use the jailer job as a stepping stone to becoming licensed cops. It seemed as if entire CO academies would train in, work the jail for a short time, then depart for policing jobs. It was the start of a cycle of attrition that would eventually lead to a "state of emergency."

III. A FAST AND FURIOUS REBELLION

Every day at 7 a.m., Ramsey correctional officers stir the inmates from bed. Nurses hand out medicine. People are shuttled to court. The injured are escorted to the infirmary. Detectives come calling to interview the accused.

The atmosphere is not nice. An undertow of racist and sexist language follows jailers everywhere they go. Throw in fights, staff assaults, unspoken sex between inmates, chemical withdrawal, and mental health crises, and jail life can be a struggle.

Jailers complain of a disconnect between the sheriff and his staff, who tend to be high school graduates from modest backgrounds with more street smarts than academic pedigree.

Under ideal conditions, inmates would get three hours free from their cells each morning and night. Yet barebones staffing forced guards to lock down entire wings for three days at a time, with exceptions only for quick showers and emergency phone calls.

Revolt was inevitable. Inmates ripped sprinklers from ceilings and flooded toilets with wadded sheets, wrecking plumbing. Those who received brief excursions outside of their cells refused to return. Once locked up, they had no idea when the doors would open again.

Sam Young, an army veteran who served in Iraq, found himself sitting in a Ramsey County jail cell after pulling a gun on a carjacker in St. Paul. Charges of terroristic threats were eventually dismissed, but he recalls his three days in detention as one of the worst experiences of his life.

Young's cellmates included a man suffering from withdrawals with scant medical attention, and a 19-year-old California transfer whose stench reminded him of amputated limbs in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake, where Young provided aid with the Army. They were denied showers their first day locked together.

"In my opinion, that's torture," Young says. "When we would detain someone overseas,

it was generally after a gun battle or raiding someone's house who had maybe produced explosive devices to kill Americans, and we'd still take them and treat them with some decency."

Sometime after his release, Young ran into a CO at the Moose Country bar in Mendota Heights. The jailer explained they just didn't have enough time to care for every inmate.

IV. DARK HORSE

The outside world knew nothing about the brewing crisis. Bostrom won reelection unchallenged.

Then, in 2016, midway through his second term, he quit.

Unbeknownst to the public, Bostrom had enrolled at Oxford University to research "character-based" hiring. He spent more than a month in London, collecting county pay, before reporters noticed his absence. The sheriff announced his resignation to his underlings over Skype. The Ramsey County Board would choose a replacement.

Bostrom's heir apparent was Chief Deputy Jack Serier, a longtime suburban cop who'd worked the streets of St. Paul for two years before sliding into a series of administrative roles. He was Bostrom's closest ally, a natural extension of his policies, and the personal favorite of Ramsey County Board Chair Victoria Reinhardt. She advocated for a swift and seamless handoff.

This left top female cops disillusioned by the board's lip service to equity, while seemingly disinterested in their candidacies.

Nancy Haas, a lobbyist for county attorneys and judges, says many employees wanted her to apply so she could fix longstanding safety and morale issues. They felt that Bostrom and Serier's "character-based" mantra wasn't practiced at the top.

Laura Goodman, a former state crime-victim ombudsman with more than 30 years as a police officer, also considered fighting for the sheriff's badge upon hearing of all the forced overtime for jailers.

"That's a pretty serious issue for a number of reasons," she says. "The most common is that when you have tired officers, you have officers that make mistakes, that have short tempers."

The Teamsters union, which represents COs, tried to combat the board's apparent indifference to understaffing. Union steward Chad Lydon wrote a letter to commissioners depicting an epic morale drain that built over Bostrom's term, during which cell-locking systems frequently malfunctioned, assaults on staff skyrocketed by 80 percent, training for new hires became increasingly rushed, and defective metal detectors weren't fixed.

Yet commissioners were determined to pick Serier. His was the only application they considered. During his interview, they lobbed softball questions about his mastery

of budgets, his "hot dog with a deputy" youth outreach events, and his dedication to a "culture of care" that made the sheriff's office a destination workplace.

"[Bostrom] is a great leader, mentor, advisor, colleague," Serier testified. "He made me a partner in developing his vision and implementing it over the years."

Members of the public in attendance, including many jailers, were not allowed to comment. Serier ascended the chain of command effortlessly.

V. A GHOST PAD IN RAILROAD ISLAND

The appointment was such a whirlwind event that it wasn't until afterward that government watchdog group St. Paul Strong posed questions about Serier's eligibility.

At the time, only Ramsey County inhabitants could hold the post, County Attorney John Kelly ruled. Yet Serier, a former Stillwater cop, was a longtime resident of Washington County. To smooth the transition, Bostrom leased his Payne Avenue townhouse to Serier prior to announcing his resignation.

The first person to notice the handoff was Kyle Mestad, then the sheriff's director of planning and policy analysis. He lived a few doors down from Bostrom, collecting the boss' mail while he studied abroad.

One day Mestad noticed an Xcel energy bill in Serier's name, though the chief deputy's car was never seen on the block, and neighbors thought the house a ghost pad. He worried that a paper trail was being created for a move that hadn't taken place.

As reporters began to ask questions, Serier produced a lease and an energy bill, both dated to show he was living in St. Paul by October 2016. But records reveal Serier voted in Stillwater that November.

To settle the question, St. Paul Strong demanded to see location data from Serier's county cell phone.

"I'm not addressing that," Serier told City Pages. "If there's a data request out there, that's a whole other thing. None has ever been made."

City Pages filed a request. The sheriff's office turned it down, and Serier declined all subsequent interviews.

The Ramsey County Board refused to investigate. Perhaps not coincidentally, County Commissioner Reinhardt now serves as chairwoman of Serier's reelection campaign.

After boasting to the board of his ability to stay under budget, Serier was reluctant to ask for more money for the staff-starved agency, says Mestad, who has since resigned.

"I'm very passionate about making sure our elected officials are good people. And I don't support Jack because the way he treats people is not right. His management and decision-making process is extremely flawed, and he lied about his residency."

THE MATHEMATICS OF LOVE, TIME, AND ART:

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It's the time that our creative artists and master craftspeople spend learning their craft, practicing and experimenting, and making something that makes that object truly special. People tend to spend their time doing what they love—so, doesn't it make sense that time equals love, and that you can feel it when you try on, say, an opal necklace that's perfect for you?

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VI. MUTINY IN THE RANKS

The sheriff's office commissioned Matrix Consulting Group to examine staffing. It found the department a damning 40 bodies short. However, the results were kept secret for six months as Serier settled in.

Yet a draft found its way to former sheriff Bob Fletcher, who had many friends in the agency. He shared the study widely, sparing no criticism.

The embattled new sheriff embarked on a mole hunt. He never found the leak, but a scouring of department emails detected Fletcher supporters.

Sgt. Lugene Werner was found to have emailed Fletcher, worried that an inmate was a potential terrorist. The county attorney had charged the man with chasing someone around a St. Paul apartment with a machete he called "the knife of God."

Though Fletcher argued that Werner hadn't sent him anything that wasn't already public information, Serier accused the sergeant of violating inmate privacy. He demoted her and recommended criminal charges. Prosecutors were less enthusiastic, quickly dismissing the case for lack of evidence.

Werner was reinstated to sergeant.

Sgt. Cory Hendrickson, who'd been copied on the email, was fired. His inbox was also found to contain many personal messages. (Hendrickson, who declined comment, is contesting the termination through arbitration.)

Yet the sheriff's sleuthing had no bearing on the underlying staffing problem. After paying \$1.3 million in overtime in 2016, Serier tried to bridge the gap with a series of scheduling changes.

Eight-hour days expanded to 10. By working longer shifts, jailers were supposed to get every other weekend off—a luxury they hadn't had in years. Serier sold it to the County Board as an "industry-leading" schedule that jailers overwhelmingly supported. They hadn't. Everyone knew the jail lacked the bodies for what Serier proposed. The handful of COs who attended the board meeting left in silent protest.

Within the week, newly appointed Chief Deputy Steve Frazer dropped a bomb: Jailers would actually work 12-hour days.

Dave Kernal, a 16-year detention veteran, says COs scrambled to find care for aging parents and newborns. Some had to go to family court to reschedule visitations with their kids. Others dropped out of night school.

"They pretty much said, 'Too bad, not my problem. Your life outside the jail, this administration doesn't care about it,'" Kernal says. "They don't give a rat's ass about us."

Not long afterward, 57-year-old inmate Christian Smalley, who was in jail for running over a woman in the parking lot of a St. Paul Target, leapt to his death from a

second-floor tier. A state review faulted jailers for patrolling too quickly to have thoroughly checked inmates' mental welfare. The sheriff's office also neglected to install suicide barriers. But instead of remedying this, Serier elected to spend \$192,000 on an administrative office makeover the following month.

COs believed the sheriff, who they say rarely set foot in the jail, cared little for working conditions. They circulated a no-confidence petition and delivered unto Serier a scornful nickname: "Lord Farquaad," after the miniature villain with an oversized sense of entitlement from *Shrek*.

VII. GUNS DRAWN

After more than a year in office, Serier hired enough COs to fully staff the jail. But they were largely rookies without experience.

This matters when a lone jailer supervising a room of 50 suddenly must deal with an inmate who makes a point of disobeying orders, COs say. An uncontrolled power play could spread like wildfire, and jailers aren't looking to fight. Not when inmates won't hesitate to seek revenge if staff does something dirty, like beating someone who's handcuffed. Career jailers who work the same cell blocks their entire lives don't tolerate excessive force. Wrongdoing paints targets on them all.

There's an impression among jailers that those hired in Fletcher's days are second-class citizens to the "character-based" hires who arrived after 2010. Veteran officers contend they're denied promotions, and senior deputies testing for sergeant are shuffled to the bottom of the roster despite scoring higher on exams.

Serier also gained a reputation of dealing excessive punishment for minor infractions.

Deputy Joe Stradinger was suspended for 30 days after failing to answer his phone because he'd hit the gym after lunch, which was allowed under his flexible work hours. Deputy Bruce Booher was demoted for nodding off on the job after working 37 days in a row. Arbitrators eventually overturned both penalties, finding that the acts "no way justified the harshness of the discipline meted out."

Employees say they accept their duty to perform ethically or face consequences. Yet they believe Serier and his supporters are held to more lenient standards.

In March, the sheriff's office raided the Vadnais Heights home of a 13-year-old autistic boy who'd made a comment in school about shooting classmates. Investigators turned up dozens of firearms. The father, Christopher Stowe, was charged with felony improper storage and possession of illegal firearms.

This case came fresh on the heels of the Parkland, Florida high school mas-

sacre. Serier held a press conference, providing alarming photos of a tangle of rifles dumped on a mattress.

Four months later, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension concluded that what was originally thought to be a machine gun was actually a semi-automatic rifle, and a short-barreled shotgun was a pistol that fired bullets, not shells. The sheriff hadn't bothered to confirm.

In April, Chief Deputy Steve Frazer appeared in Corporate Mark, a mom-and-pop embroidery store in White Bear Lake, to solicit donations for Serier's reelection. Corporate Mark is a cop's shop, brimming with police-themed clothing and ceremonial banners. It's a place where officers from assorted agencies stop in to grab a piece of candy and chat with owner Linda Schwartzbauer.

Schwartzbauer is married to a Ramsey County deputy, so she was reluctant to complain when her husband's boss asked her to hang a "Sheriff Jack Serier" T-shirt prominently on the wall.

Yet when other police noted that it's unlawful for Frazer to campaign on county time, she turned to former sheriff Bob Fletcher. He filed an ethics complaint. (Frazer declined comment.)

Neither the Vadnais Heights gun case nor the donation solicitation resulted in discipline.

When Serier announced his bid for reelection, longtime Minneapolis cop Mike Martin stepped up to challenge him. Martin says he was persuaded after speaking with dozens within the department who felt misused and mismanaged. "They were men, women, people of every background, and they all seemed to hit on the same themes."

Serier's supporters included a who's who of St. Paul politics—Congresswoman Betty McCollum, state legislators, county attorneys, city council members, and even a host of labor unions.

"Respect, responsibility, honor, and truth are at the core of everything that happens in Sheriff Serier's office," says campaign chairwoman Victoria Reinhardt. "I always know that Jack holds the best interests of the people in his department and of the people of Ramsey County in his heart. Sheriff Jack Serier's integrity is beyond reproach."

Neither of the unions representing COs and deputies endorsed Serier. Regardless, he won the DFL nomination easily in May, forcing Martin to abandon the race—and pass the baton to Fletcher, who filed to



Jack Serier and Matt Bostrom

GLEN STUBBE

run as an independent mere hours before registration closed.

At an election launch party at Mancini's Char House, Fletcher promised to outfit deputies with body cameras and merge the county jail and workhouse to improve the flow of mental health services. His campaign manager is 34-year-old organic farmer Mhonpaj Lee.

She met Fletcher decades ago when he showed up at St. Paul's Mount Airy projects to sell her parents on the benefits of sport. He wanted to assemble the first Hmong Boy Scouts troupe in their neighborhood and organize a girls' softball team. She grew up attending the early reading and swim programs run by the sheriff's office, which were discontinued with Fletcher's departure in 2010.

"I was so naive when I was younger. It wasn't until I was older that I actually realized he was the sheriff of Ramsey County," Lee says. "When Bob [lost] reelection, none of us kids had anywhere else to go. But I have to say, all the kids whose lives they touched, most of us went to college. We all have good careers."

The feeling among Fletcher's coalition—past and present sheriff's employees, Hmong and Somali delegates, and former law enforcement rivals—seems to be that even if he isn't the ideal candidate, he's the only one with the name recognition to take down Serier.

Even St. Paul Strong's Laura Goodman, who dragged Fletcher when she also ran for sheriff in 2010, says she's far more confident in his ability to learn from his mistakes than in Serier admitting to any fault.

When correctional officer Jason Fla-have died that January night, Fletcher called his widow, Amber Gray, the next morning. Jack Serier followed with his condolences three days later.

Reflecting on two years of dysfunction, Gray says she blames the incumbent sheriff for drawing a line in the sand between Fletcher loyalists and new hires—castes that didn't exist before.

"There are a lot of us that do not want to see that man get elected," Gray says of Serier. "He's just not a good human being. He's a politician first and human being second, if it's even second." 



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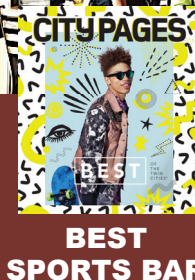


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THE BEST ACRE

How a Falcon Heights nonprofit is fixing our food system

BY BETH DOOLEY

The Good Acre's sleek red warehouse rises amid the green fields of the U of M's farm, just off Larpent Avenue in Falcon Heights. Enter its double doors to stacks of CSA boxes; black buckets of towering hydrangeas, dahlias, and echinacea; and jugs of brewing kombucha.

The kitchens bustle with small food processors. You might meet the Latina women of Señoras de Salsa, their laughter mingling with scents of garlic and cilantro; come evening, Yia Vang, the hip young Hmong chef, is teaching college-bound students the art of banh mi. By next morning, "lunch ladies" and administrators will file in for culinary farm-to-school training. This food hub is a warehouse and packing facility, with licensed commercial kitchens, a cooking school, a culinary training center, and a community gathering space.

"I stay behind the scenes," Rhys Williams, the Good Acre's executive director, likes to say. But this quiet and unassuming man is at the center of it all. Williams is fit and weathered, still very much a seasoned farmer. He's growing an alternative food system, one that responds to the needs of small and immigrant organic farmers by connecting them to institutions, processors, chefs, teachers, co-ops, and home cooks.

"Seems every week we are giving a tour to a different group," he says. Everyone involved in fixing our food system wants to know how everything here gets done.

Early in his career, Williams spent several years working in orchards on both coasts before moving to Minnesota and becoming a founding partner of Featherstone Farm in Rushford, one of the state's largest organic growers. Over a decade later, he joined Co-op Partners, a wholesale distributor, as a buyer of certified organic produce. He saw that as the organic sector grew, established farmers could supply enough to co-ops and restaurants to lock up contracts. This kept farmers who were just starting—especially immigrant farmers—out of the wholesale market.

"Farming here is tough enough, and relying on farmers markets for income is just too risky," Williams explains. Entering the



July's Teen Cooking class with Via Yang

TONY NELSON

distribution system is the biggest challenge small-scale farmers face.

"I can't imagine doing this work when English is your second language," Williams says.

TGA's farmers have access to the warehouse's state-of-the-art washing lines, sorting and packing tables, refrigerator, and freezer storage. They learn how to build hoop houses for season extension, start early crops, and use TGA's farm manuals written in English, Hmong, and Spanish. "Selling my produce to the Good Acre has helped me increase my revenue and decrease my produce loss," notes TGA farmer Lyeue Vue.

Each week, over 500 CSA members pick up boxes of seasonal produce from over 40 small farmers. This guarantees farmers receive a fair and stable price while the member's boxes are filled with a bountiful assortment; no one gets stuck with a week's worth of kohlrabi.

Cooking classes for youth, adults, and families—Indian Vegetarian Cooking, Open-Fire Cooking (at Gibbs Farm), Global Summer Salads, Pickling and Canning—sell out quickly, and sliding fees for classes and CSA shares make them accessible. One CSA member was so delighted by her box's freshness and variety that she purchased 15 additional shares for several college-age America Corps workers living nearby. "She saw they were eating just chips and pizza," says Anna Richardson, CSA manager. "These students love it. They're realizing how easy it is to eat fresh, healthy, delicious food."

TGA makes the wholesale market accessible and profitable to small and immigrant farmers. "Good Acre Farmers receive about 80 to 90 percent of each dollar in sales," says Nick Mabe, sales and logistics director, whose accounts include the U of M,

Armark, Hamline, several hospitals, and more than 14 school districts. This past year, TGA supplied over 90,000 pounds of produce to schools. "We understand that institutional food service accounts are often understaffed and overworked, so we assist in the role of farm-to-school coordinator by managing local farmer relationships and by offering our culinary training services," Mabe says.

Recently, TGA launched a culinary training program for school "lunch ladies,"—aka Nutrition Service Department staff—with classes in scratch cooking of vegetable dishes that kids will like and that meet the USDA's nutritional guidelines.

Beyond lunch, local food is entering the classroom. TGA is working with Anoka-Hennepin School District to build a FACS (Family and Consumer Science) curriculum focused on local food, agriculture, and career opportunities in the food industry. "We're expanding the scope of Farm to School to include not only what kids have for lunch in the cafeteria but what they're learning in the classroom, hopefully sparking systemic change," adds Emily Paul, TGA program director.

Like organic farming itself, the Good Acre's holistic, integrated approach is weaving a web of farmers, food makers, cooks, and eaters through support services, warehouse infrastructure, classes, and trainings. Unlike most commercial growers and processors, this enterprise doesn't measure success in dollars. Here, decisions are made with an eye to the soil's fertility, human health, fair wages for workers, and animal welfare. Its highest consideration is not the immediate impact on the bottom line but on growing a hopeful, vibrant, delicious future for us all. ☐

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MONDAY *Shaun of the Dead* at Brit's P. 21

WEDNESDAY 8.8

CATS/FESTIVAL

CAT VIDEO FESTIVAL 2018

CHS FIELD

In contrast to canine companions, felines have a reputation for being solitary creatures with little interest in currying favor with humans. As cat owners can attest, however, such aloofness is merely a front for an animal whose inquisitive nature is prone to lead to comical mishaps. Perhaps it's the reluctant revealing of their inner goofiness that has made the annual Cat Video Festival such a popular draw. An enormous library of fan-submitted cat videos is edited into a celebration of the cat in its many unpredictable moods. This low-key gathering at CHS Field invites attendees to spread out their blankets below the big-screen monitors, creating the convivial atmosphere of a picnic. In addition to the videos, attendees can peruse a range of cat-friendly vendors, listen to live music, snack on an assortment of food and beverages, and marvel at the fireworks display. While general admission tickets are a mere \$15, those who spring for VIP tickets will enjoy complimentary snacks, private restrooms, and reserved seats. Find tickets and more info at www.catfestmn.com. 6 p.m. \$15; kids 5 and under free; \$75 VIP. 360 N. Broadway St., St. Paul; 651-266-6400. —BRAD RICHASON

COMEDY

ZAINAB JOHNSON

RICK BRONSON'S HOUSE OF COMEDY

"I had no idea I was funny when I was growing up," says comedian Zainab Johnson. "One of my first TV tapings was a reboot of *Comic View* on BET. My mother and a few of my siblings drove to Atlanta to support me at the taping. My younger brother said he was more nervous than he'd ever been in his life right before I got onstage. I asked him why, and he said, 'Because I don't remember you being funny when we were growing up.'" As a former teacher, she's used to being in front of crowds, but her previous occupation

didn't provide a lot of useful experience beyond that. "Being in front of students and teaching them from an already defined curriculum or syllabus is way easier than getting onstage and trying to make strangers laugh," she says. When not on stage, Johnson is somewhat of a foodie. "Good, healthy, tasty food," she explains. "Eating and good conversation is always high on my list of things to do. I also like experiencing things I've never done before." 16+. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday; 9:45 p.m. Friday; 7

p.m. Saturday and Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Saturday. \$16-\$23. 408 E. Broadway, Mall of America, Bloomington; 952-858-8558. **Through Sunday** —P.F. WILSON

THURSDAY 8.9

PERFORMANCE

THROW OPEN THE HEAVY CURTAIN

RED EYE THEATER

Dance/theater artist Sharon Picasso does nothing by halves. For her

Local fungi artist Kate Casanova hosts a final show before moving to Denver.



KATE CASANOVA

latest production, she has not only choreographed a work about processing the simultaneous death of her father and birth of her son, she's transformed the Red Eye Theater space, and designed the light installation and sound. The work looks at the phenomenon of coming and going, of dealing with chance and making choices. Crafted from personal histories through audio interviews and physical impulses, this complex and engaging evening-length work is set within a light installation controlled solely by the performers. The stellar cast includes Picasso, Heidi Kalweit, Masanari Kawahara, Jesse Nuemann-Peterson, and the divine Erin Thompson. 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; 5 p.m. Sunday. \$12/\$15 at the door; Thursday's show is pay-as-able. 15 W. 14th St., Minneapolis; 612-870-0309. **Through Sunday** —LINDA SHAPIRO

FRIDAY 8.10

MARKETS

MINNEAPOLIS VINTAGE NIGHT MARKET

MODIST BREWING COMPANY

Shopping for vintage wares can be a bit like a treasure hunt. After a day of store-hopping you might come up with nothing, but when you do discover that rare find, it's the best thing ever. This weekend, retro-minded Twin Citians will have a few opportunities to dive into collections where they just might find that key piece they've been dreaming about. The monthly, traveling Minneapolis Vintage Night Market is setting up shop at Modist this Friday. Check out well-kept items from independent sellers. There's A2ndhandhome, whose collection includes wooden bowls, quirky glassware, and gardening books from other eras. Old Soul Boutique has things like hot pink floral frocks, mod wardrobe additions, and yellow sundresses with rainbow belts. Other participating shops include Lighthouse Studios, Ruffled Vintage, and Dinosaur Hampton, whose new embroidery on vintage denim is highly coveted.

FESTIVAL

IRISH FAIR
OF MINNESOTA 2018

HARRIET ISLAND

Each summer, the Irish and Irish at heart descend on St. Paul for three days of food, music, and a couple of pints. The annual Irish Fair has been taking place at Harriet Island since 2001, drawing upward of 100,000 people each year. The event is entirely not-for-profit, with all proceeds being reinvested into Minnesota's Irish cultural community, or shared with new immigrant groups through the Legacy Fund. Highlights of the weekend include the Celtic Kitchen, where you can try samplings of Irish dishes; a children's area with games, music, face painting, and Baaary the Sheep, the mascot of the annual Irish Fair; a music workshop tent; and more. This is known as one of the most authentic Irish festivals in the country, and continues to grow every year. There's even a Mass on Sunday at 9 a.m., so you can be a good Irish Catholic before getting your Sunday Funday started. No need to dust off your green beer-stained leprechaun outfit for this one; just show up ready to eat, drink, dance, and revel in the luck of the Irish. Find more info at www.irishfair.com. 3 to 11 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. Free. 200 Dr. Justus Ohage Blvd., St. Paul. **Through Sunday —PATRICK STRAIT**



PATRICK MCNEIL

The best part? Even if you come up empty-handed, at least there's good beer to be had a few feet away. Also, be sure to check out Sunday's Back Alley Bazaar III from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Golden Pearl Vintage (507 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis; 612-378-3978) if Friday's happening doesn't sate your sartorial thirst. 5 to 10 p.m. Free. 505 N. Third St., Minneapolis; 612-454-0258. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

COMEDY

GEOFF TATE

THE ROYAL COMEDY THEATRE

Geoff Tate used to talk about politics and current events in his act, and he vented about both parties pretty evenly. Offstage these days, however, his dismay is leaning in a particular direction. "They've turned everything political," he says. "The right bitch constantly. They bitch about other people bitching, and it's frustrating." He elaborates: "Think of all the things that weren't political five years ago that are now. For example, I don't think parents should be separated from their babies. That's now a political statement. I don't think you should sell bulletproof backpacks before you do something about granting access to guns for the mentally unstable. That's now a political statement. Things that were so fucking obvious are now split down party lines." And that's why he no longer talks about those things onstage.

"The stuff I'm writing now is sillier," he says. "I guess it is a direct response to how fucking terrible everything else is." He feels the audience needs a break. "It's so bad all day, every day that when I go onstage I'd rather not talk about all that heavy shit." 21+. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10:30 Saturday. \$20. 809 Main St., Hopkins; 612-666-0809. **Also Saturday —P.F. WILSON**

ART/GALLERY

KATE CASANOVA: UNDERBELLY

PUBLIC FUNCTIONARY

Sculptor and multimedia artist Kate Casanova has long beguiled, intrigued, and mystified us with her evolving artist practice—including chairs and automobiles festooned with living, growing mushrooms. Now she has accepted a position as assistant professor of sculpture at the University of Denver. Our loss is certainly their gain. Before she leaves, Public Functionary is having a blow-out exhibition of sculpture and video in which Casanova continues her exploration of natural phenomena, artificial material, and the posthuman body. It's heady stuff, but also exhilarating in its sheer brilliance and extremism. Get another look before this interdisciplinary artist goes supernova. There will be an opening reception on Friday, August 10, from 7 p.m. to midnight. 1400 12th Ave. NE, Minneapolis. **Through August 26 —CAMILLE LEFEVRE**

MARKETS

STRANGE GIRLS ART
AND CRAFT MARKET

TWIN SPIRITS DISTILLERY

While vintage lovers will be hitting up Modist and the Golden Pearl this weekend, folks with a darker esthetic may appreciate stopping at Strange Girls' latest market. Yes, this happening is in broad daylight, but the items you'll find are macabre, edgy, and cool. Wares include gorgeous ceramic mugs adorned with goats, snakes, and other dark creatures; hand-embroidered patches celebrating butts, skulls, and lesbian love; T-shirts with lady-positive slogans; leather fetish wear; and glittery nail polish (because sometimes you just have to sparkle). Support local women-run businesses and shop from a lineup that includes artist Angel Hawari, Black Spoke Leather Co., Cabinet of Curious Clay, Caspienne's Stranger Stitchery, Glimmer and Grim, and Nest and Tessellate, among others. Noon to 8 p.m. Free. 2931 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis; 612-353-5274. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

PARTY

TRANSMISSION
PRESENTS: THE '80S

FIRST AVENUE

Despite focusing on tunes from the '80s and '90s, Transmission manages to attract crowds of all ages. On the dance floor you might spot Gen Xers toasting to anthems from their high school years, millennials getting down to new discoveries, and maybe even a few Gen Z kids sweetly enjoying one of their first 18-plus dance nights. Whatever category you fall into, all are welcome. This Saturday, DJ Jake Rudh will be spinning tunes from the '80s. Think classic MTV era, with moments celebrating electro-heavy synth, New Wave angst, pretty Brit rock, and even a dash of grimy punk. These tunes are unaltered from their most familiar forms, so don't worry about any weird remixes or mashups bumming out the vibe. Meanwhile, old-school videos will be projected on the big screen. 18+. 9 p.m. \$10/\$12 at the door. 701 First Ave. N., Minneapolis; 612-338-8388. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

FESTIVAL

2018 SQUARE LAKE
FILM & MUSIC FESTIVAL

SQUARE LAKE

For the past 16 years, people have made their way out to Square Lake for a day of biking, movies, and music on a hobby farm in Stillwater. The unique festival

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 ►

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AND A CONCERT
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Aug. 17 – Hitchville

Aug. 31 – Levi Pelzer



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FEATURED SHOWS



SAT
AUG 11
89.3 THE CURRENT AND CITY PAGES PRESENT
PUNCH BROTHERS
WITH MADISON CUNNINGHAM
PALACE THEATRE \$30+ / 7PM DOORS / 18+



THU
SEPT 13
NEW POWER GENERATION
FIRST AVENUE \$31.21 / 7PM DOORS / 18+

UP NEXT FIRST AVENUE MAINROOM



AUG 10
FIRST AVENUE AND TIIIIIIIP PRESENT
A TRIBUTE TO OUTKAST



AUG 11
89.3 THE CURRENT AND ELECTRIC FETUS PRESENT
TRANSMISSION PRESENTS: THE '80S
FEATURING DJ JAKE RUDH



AUG 17
2ND ANNUAL SHINE A LIGHT FOUNDATION CHARITY EVENT
WITH SHANE MARTIN BAND, ALEX ROSSI



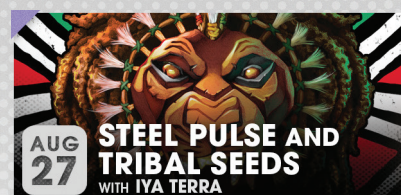
AUG 18
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
BAD BAD HATS
WITH SCRUNCHIES, JESSICA MANNING



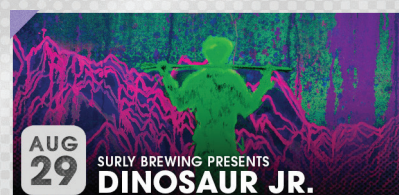
AUG 24
BUMP N GRIND: SUMMER EDITION



AUG 25
SNOWTA PRESENTS
RUSKO



AUG 27
STEEL PULSE AND TRIBAL SEEDS
WITH IYA TERRA



AUG 29
SURLLY BREWING PRESENTS
DINOSAUR JR.



AUG 31
FOREVA EVA
THE WEDDING EVERYONE CAN CRASH
FT. AL CHURCH'S ELECTRIC PARTY AUTHORITY



SEP 01
IMPALER, THE REGIME, DARE FORCE, AND KUBLAI KHAN



SEP 05
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
CAR SEAT HEADREST
WITH NAKED GIANTS



SEP 07
FIDLAR
A NORTH AMERICAN TOUR IN 2018
WITH DILLY DALLY, NOBRO



SEP 08
93X PRESENTS
FOZZY
THE JUDAS RISING TOUR
WITH ADELITA'S WAY, STONE BROKEN, THE STIR



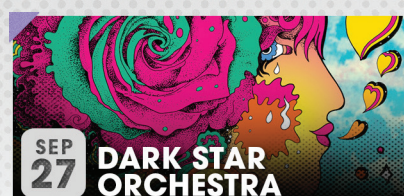
SEP 16
WOLFmother



SEP 20
GIORGIO MORODER DJ SET
WITH DJ JAKE RUDH (TRANSMISSION), DJ GRANT MAYLAND (DARK ENERGY)



SEP 21
89.3 THE CURRENT PRESENTS
YOUR SMITH
(FKA CAROLINE SMITH) WITH BAUM



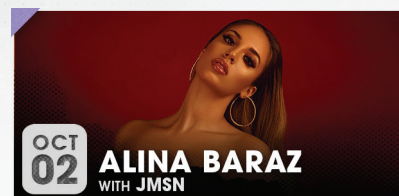
SEP 27
DARK STAR ORCHESTRA



SEP 29
LUCERO
WITH BRENT COWLES



OCT 01
SUICIDAL TENDENCIES



OCT 02
ALINA BARAZ
WITH JMSN



OCT 03
GO 95.3 PRESENTS
DENZEL CURRY
TAT300 TOUR 2018



OCT 06
THE GROWLERS
BEACH GOTH TOUR 2018



OCT 07
DEVOTCHKA



OCT 08
THE GLITCH MOB
WITH ELOHIM

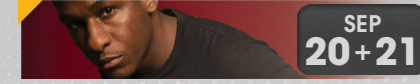
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UP NEXT PALACE THEATRE



SEP 07
AN EVENING WITH DAWES: PASSWORDS TOUR



SEP 20+21
LEON BRIDGES
W/ KHRUANGBIN



SEP 28
GREENSKY BLUEGRASS
W/ GHOST LIGHT



SEP 29
SHAKEY GRAVES
THE TOUR X9 WORLD TOUR
W/ THE WILD REEDS



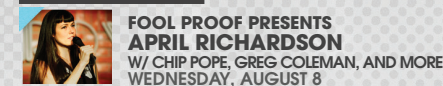
OCT 02
CHVRCHES
W/ LO MOON



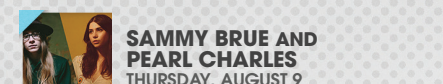
OCT 06
DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
W/ CHARLY BLISS

UP NEXT 7TH ST ENTRY

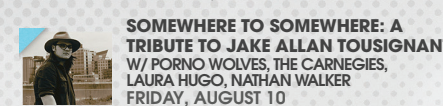
BEST CONCERT VENUE - CITY PAGES 2018



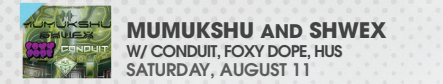
FOOL PROOF PRESENTS
APRIL RICHARDSON
W/ CHIP POPE, GREG COLEMAN, AND MORE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8



SAMMY BRUE AND PEARL CHARLES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9



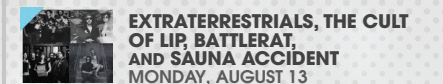
SOMEWHERE TO SOMEWHERE: A TRIBUTE TO JAKE ALLAN TOUSIGNANT
W/ PORN WOLVES, THE CARNEGIES, LAURA HUGO, NATHAN WALKER
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10



MUMUKSHU AND SHWEX
W/ CONDUIT, FOXY DOPE, HUS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11



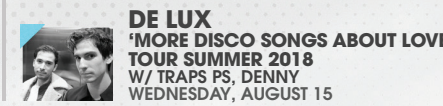
GULLY BOYS
ALBUM RELEASE SHOW
W/ BEASTHEAD, SASS, NIIICE.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12



EXTRATERRESTRIALS, THE CULT OF LIP, BATTERLAT, AND SAUNA ACCIDENT
MONDAY, AUGUST 13

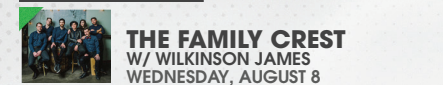


DRU DEVON
W/ DEVON REASON, ULTRARARE, SHANELL MCCOY, KPW
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

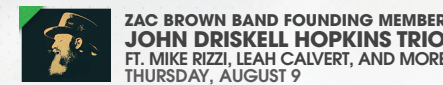


DE LUX
'MORE DISCO SONGS ABOUT LOVE'
TOUR SUMMER 2018
W/ TRAPS P5, DENNY
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

UP NEXT TURF CLUB



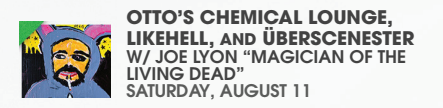
THE FAMILY CREST
W/ WILKINSON JAMES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8



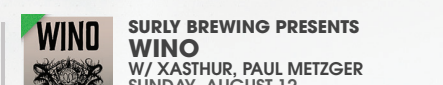
ZAC BROWN BAND FOUNDING MEMBER JOHN DRISKELL HOPKINS TRIO
FT. MIKE RIZZI, LEAH CALVERT, AND MORE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9



PORKY'S GROOVE MACHINE, HENNEPIN COUNTY MILLIONAIRES CLUB, AND RADIOCHURCH
FRIDAY, AUGUST 10



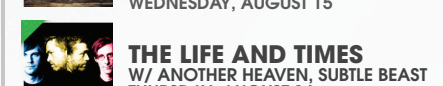
OTTO'S CHEMICAL LOUNGE, LIKEHELL, AND ÜBERSCENESTER
W/ JOE LYON "MAGICIAN OF THE LIVING DEAD"
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11



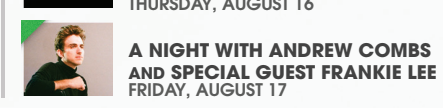
WINO
SURLLY BREWING PRESENTS
W/ XASTHUR, PAUL METZGER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12



TINA AND THE B-SIDES
W/ ANNIE MACK
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15

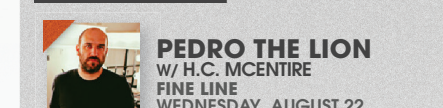


THE LIFE AND TIMES
W/ ANOTHER HEAVEN, SUBTLE BEAST
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16



A NIGHT WITH ANDREW COMBS
AND SPECIAL GUEST FRANKIE LEE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

UP NEXT OTHER VENUES



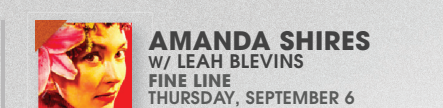
PEDRO THE LION
W/ H.C. MCENTIRE
FINE LINE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22



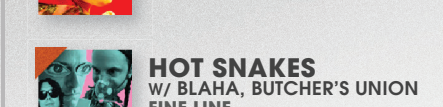
JOE MANDE
THE CEDAR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23



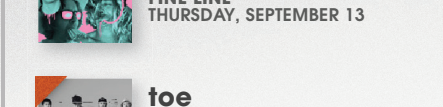
OLIVIA GATWOOD
W/ JOAQUINA MERTZ
THE CEDAR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1



AMANDA SHIRES
W/ LEAH BLEVINS
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6



HOT SNAKES
W/ BLAHA, BUTCHER'S UNION
FINE LINE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13



toe
W/ JACK GRACE
FINE LINE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

JUST ANNOUNCED



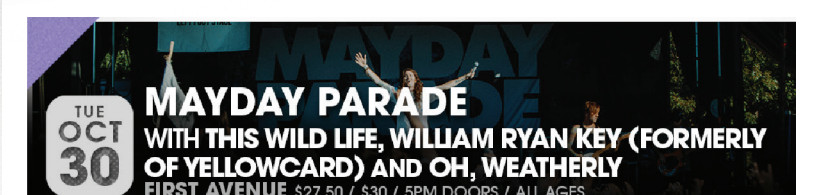
SAT
SEPT 08
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PROF OUTDOORS 5
FT PROF W/ LIL B, MONTANA OF 300, CASHINOVA, MAC IRV, GAINESFM, JIMMY2TIMES
HOSTED BY MR. PETER PARKER
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go 95.3



MON
SEPT 17
CAFÉ TACVBA
WITH THE MARÍAS
FIRST AVENUE \$30 / \$35 DOS / 7PM DOORS / 18+



SUN
OCT 28
HEADBANGA TOUR
TANK AND THE BANGAS & BIG FREEDIA
WITH NAUGHTY PROFESSOR
FIRST AVENUE \$25 / 7PM DOORS / 18+



TUE
OCT 30
MAYDAY PARADE
WITH THIS WILD LIFE, WILLIAM RYAN KEY (FORMERLY OF YELLOWCARD) AND OH, WEATHERLY
FIRST AVENUE \$27.50 / \$30 / 5PM DOORS / ALL AGES

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Steve Kempers, M.D.

Minnesota Clinical Study Center
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For further information, please call: **763-502-2941**

SATURDAY

COMEDY
AFRICAN
COMEDY SHOW

NORTHROP

With over 1 billion people living among 54 unique countries, Africa represents one of the most diversified populations on the planet. Demonstrating that humor is a universal part of humanity, the African Comedy Show features some of the most prominent comedians to emerge from the continent in recent years. Heading the lineup is Anne Kansiime, a Ugandan standup whose enormous popular appeal has earned her the esteemed moniker Queen of African Comedy. Michael Omuka (aka Smart-Joker) and Dankan Onyango (aka Tumbili or 2mbili), who both gained fans on the popular Kenyan comedy show *Churchill Live*, are also highlighted. Serving as hosts for the evening will be Cotilda Inapo (Uganda) and Eric Omondi (Kenya). 5 p.m. \$40-\$60. 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis; 612-624-2345. —BRAD RICHASON



COURTESY OF EVENT ORGANIZERS

CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY ►

returns this weekend with entertainment on the big screen and the stage. The tunes will be a mix of R&B, Americana, rock, folk, and indie rock, with appearances from Night Moves, Lady Midnight, Erik Koskinen, Under Violet, Pieta Brown, Flavor Crystals, Soft Topics, and Lovers on the Balcony. The film shorts will be a mix of locally made and international selections, with about 80 percent of the collection coming from Minnesota. The highlight of the evening will be “Bike Trilogy,” local animator Tom Schroeder’s cult favorite work two decades in the making. The piece will be accompanied by Dave King, who will perform three short scores live for the first time. Biking to the festival is encouraged, and signing up early to do so scores you supercheap admission. Group rides take off in the morning from the HUB Bike Co-op (3016 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis) and Cycles for Change (712 University Ave., St. Paul). Find tickets and more info at www.squarelakefestival.com. 2 p.m. to 1 a.m.; 10 a.m. group bike rides. \$35/\$45 at the door; \$15 for pre-registered bikers. 13359 Partridge Rd. N., Stillwater. —JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

SUNDAY 8.12

SPORTS

BLOOD, SWEAT, & BEERS
WRESTLING EXTRA-VAGANZA

BAUHAUS BREW LABS

If you haven’t heard, Minneapolis is once again a wrestling town. Though the days of Baron Von Raschke, Verne Gagne, and

Nick Bockwinkel are gone, a new breed of talents like “The Anarchist” Arik Cannon, Darin Corbin, and Air Wolf has picked up the torch and carried it proudly. This week, even the most extreme wrestling superfans will have their endurance put to the test when Bauhaus Brew Labs, FIRST Wrestling, and the Academy: School of Professional Wrestling team up for a six-hour marathon of beers and bodyslams. The all-ages event will include a VIP meet-and-greet with the local superstars plus former WWE, TNA, and ECW legends like Mr. Anderson, Tommy Dreamer, and current NWA champion Nick Aldis. There will be raffles and prizes courtesy of Zubaz, ALTR Fitness, and Central Avenue Liquors, along with barbecue from the Meat and Greet Food Truck, served up by former TNA Knockouts champion ODB. Of course,

there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy all of your favorite Bauhaus beers without shedding any blood (maybe some sweat, but only meat sweats). Kids 12 and under get in free, so it’s a fun day for the whole family. The bell rings promptly at 5 p.m., and if you’re lucky you might be able to chug a Sky-Five IPA Stone Cold Steve Austin-style with some of your favorite brawlers. All ages. 3 to 9 p.m. \$20 (presale tickets include a beer); \$50 VIP. 1315 Tyler St. NE, Minneapolis; 612-276-6911. —PATRICK STRAIT

MONDAY 8.13

FILM

ANNUAL OUTDOOR
SUMMER MOVIE SERIES

BRIT’S PUB

Brit filmmaker Simon Pegg, the Mr. Bean of the hipster generation, has pumped out some of the funniest and most absurd films of the past couple of decades. While he might be cashing those sweet, sweet *Mission Impossible* and *Star Trek* checks these days, the thing he’s best known for are the Three Flavours Cornetto trilogy. Beginning this Monday and each Monday for the rest of August, you’ll be able to sprawl out on the lawn at Brit’s and enjoy Pegg’s quirky facial expressions and foul mouth while sipping a Newcastle and jamming some bangers and mash in your gullet. This week Brit’s will be showing *Shaun of the Dead*, August 20 will be *Hot Fuzz*, and the finale on August 27 is *The World’s End*. There’s no cover, but bring your blanket and get there early, as Pegg’s boyish good looks and affinity for ass-kicking are sure to draw plenty of British-comedy connoisseurs all month long. 8:30 p.m. Free. 1110 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis; 612-332-3908. Through August 27 —PATRICK STRAIT



Square Lake Fest brings local films and tunes to Stillwater this weekend.

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FILM

LIFE IN PIECES

In *Puzzle*, a woman's life becomes her own



Kelly Macdonald

PHOTO BY LINDA KALLERUS, COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

BY TONY LIBERA

Puzzle is a movie that's both as simple and as complicated as its namesake. A remake of the 2010 Argentine picture *Rompecabezas*, the U.S. version explores the difficulties of 21st-century housewifery with an approach that feels at once wholly American and also universal.

The film tells the story of Agnes (Kelly Macdonald), a woman whose day-to-day life consists of running errands, attending church meetings, and cooking meals for her husband and two sons. She loves her family, but it's clear from the opening scene—in which Agnes picks up the pieces of a plate her husband breaks at her own birthday party—that her identity as an individual has been subsumed by that of a suburban caretaker.

But things begin to change when Agnes discovers a preternatural knack for assembling jigsaw puzzles. After cruising through what she has at home, Agnes takes a train into New York City to visit a puzzle shop. There she finds an advertisement posted by someone seeking

a puzzling partner. Agnes calls the number and soon meets Robert (Irrfan Khan), a wealthy inventor looking to enter a puzzle competition.

While she's reluctant at first, Agnes decides to practice with Robert in secret—and through this straightforward new hobby she undergoes a fortysomething awakening.

Puzzle is one of those indie features whose success is predicated on its lead actor. That's not to say it would be a bad movie without Kelly Macdonald, nor that the supporting actors don't pull their weight. In fact, Khan and David Denman, who plays Agnes' husband, Louie, both manage their parts deftly without overtaking Macdonald.

But the scope feels so small, the story so delicate, that if it weren't for the performance she gives here, it's unclear whether *Puzzle* would stand out as much as it does. Even at its peaks, this is a movie where the driving action is two people sitting at a table and connecting little cardboard pieces to one another. Macdonald makes it something more.

Agnes' transformation is understated, but also relatively radical. Missing a church meet-up and sneaking into the Big Apple

PUZZLE

directed by Marc Turtletaub
now open, Edina Cinema

to do puzzles instead of grocery shopping may not feel like the most extreme moves to make, but for Agnes, these are momentous steps. Macdonald underplays her through the beginning scenes, allowing her to slowly come into her own. We get a sense of self-discovery that feels incredibly real.

There's something to be said here about Marc Turtletaub's direction, too. The former Money Store CEO turned film producer has a surprisingly conscious grasp of lower-middle-class family dynamics, and his unorthodox directing style—he doesn't do rehearsals, among other atypical methods—clearly lent itself to the film's authentic feel. While it's only Turtletaub's second feature as a director, *Puzzle* is composed with the tact of a skilled veteran.

Still, it's Kelly Macdonald's movie at the end of the day. *Puzzle* isn't so much a film about putting pieces together as it is a story of one woman pulling her life apart—for the better. **C**

THE SUBVERSIVE SIRENS

Meet Minneapolis' LGBTQ synchro swim team



ERIN STARKEY

BY SARAH BRUMBLE

Ahead of the 2018 Gay Games in Paris, the Subversive Sirens show no sign of nerves. At a recent rehearsal, the bleachers are packed with loved ones as the five teammates—predominantly queer ladies of color in their 30s and 40s—approach the pool, clad in custom suits of spangly purple and black fishnet, topped with silver swim caps.

The music kicks on: “Dearly beloved, we have gathered here today, to get through this thing called life.” The Sirens hold a mock-wedding on the pool deck, then dive in. Their energetic legs scissor skyward, form floating stars, and peel into columns.

“We’re swimming to save our lives,” explains team co-founder Signe Harri-day following the rapturous performance.

After attending the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland, Harri-day pitched the idea of forming a team to her friend Suzy Messerole, though they weren’t sure what sport they would compete in.

They scrolled through options together. “I believe Signe’s quote was, ‘I took a one-week synchronized swimming camp in fourth grade, so I got this,’” laughs Messerole.

The pair began training, inviting Tana Hargest, Zoe Hollomon, and Nicki McCracken into the fold. As Minnesota’s premiere synchronized swimming team, they’re dedicated to black liberation, equity in aquatic arts, body positivity, and queer visibility.

In the context of a sport formerly known

as “water ballet,” what they’re doing is transgressive. For one routine, set to Prince’s “Pussy Control,” they cheekily repurpose old-school synchronized swimming moves to allude to cunnilingus.

Everyone in the stands goes bonkers. One imagines that more traditional Esther Williams-era fans might clutch their pearls.

“We don’t even know how stuff is scored, honestly,” admits McCracken. (It helps that the Games have no qualifiers, with a spirit of inclusion and love prevailing over competition.)

“This is for our joy,” says Hollomon. In our contemporary climate, joy in and of itself is rebellious.

“There’s this aspect of the joyousness people gravitate toward.... Like, ‘Yes, you can decide all of a sudden you want to be a competitive athlete and actually do it,’” says Hargest.

The Sirens are dreaming bigger than many dare. In the process, they’re reclaiming the pool, a multigenerational site of oppression and exclusion for many, but especially for the black community.

Suddenly, this seems less absurd, and downright revolutionary.

The Sirens aren’t out for blood at the Gay Games, nor does their mission end after Paris: McCracken has her sights on the Phillips Aquatics Center.

“My plan is to make it the new synchro pool. But they don’t know this yet.”

And if they end up spawning an entire city of mermaids?

Everyone bursts into song: “That would be amaaaazing!” ☑

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SHOLA SHODIPO

25, STYLIST

What are you wearing?

My slip dress is by Frame, bag by Alexander Wang.

Describe your style:

My style is quite relaxed, androgynous, bold, textured, and high fashion.

What fall fashion trend are you looking forward to most?

I am looking forward to multi-layered looks. I have purchased a couple oversize statement jackets that I can't wait to wear.



ANDREA LICETH RAMIREZ FLOREZ

29, TEACHER'S ASSISTANT

What are you wearing?

I am wearing a romper from Forever 21 and I got my shoes at DSW.

What fall fashion trend are you looking forward to most?

Leather skirts with long velvet boots and a mock turtle velvet blouse.



KATHERINE PERRIER

17, CO-OP EMPLOYEE

What are you wearing?

AE jeans, my boyfriend's shirt from Pac Sun, and Nike silver bullets.

Describe your style:

My style varies. I love men's clothing but I also love fun and feminine clothing. It's really whatever I see and like!

What fall fashion trend are you looking forward to most?

I love Minnesota falls; we're incredibly blessed. I look forward mostly to fun sweaters and being able to wear hats again.

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Gully Boys are not “some dads” from Vermont

BY AUSTIN GERTH

Sometimes it feels like the English language is running low on good band names, and even if—let’s say by sheer dumb luck—you do stumble on a really a good one, odds are high it’s already been taken by some other dork with a dicey Bandcamp project.

Or perhaps, as happened to Minneapolis rock trio Gully Boys, your chosen name might turn out to already be taken by a long-running band of “some dads,” as drummer Nadirah McGill put it, out in Vermont.

The Gully Boys’ Green Mountain State doppelgangers didn’t pick a fight over the shared name. A member reached out to Minnesota’s Gully Boys—not with a cease-and-desist letter, but with an offer. See, the Vermont Gully

**GULLY BOYS
RELEASE SHOW**
for *Not So Brave* is
Sunday, August 12 at
the 7th St. Entry

Boys have been playing together for roughly 25 years, which means naturally they own just about every logical domain name for a band called Gully Boys online, so he just wanted to tell McGill and her bandmates to get in touch if they needed to work something out to put up a website.

“They were super nice,” McGill says. “He was like, ‘Let me know if you ever want to come out to Vermont, we could do a double Gully Boy bill.’”

Anyway, our Gully Boys—the ones from Minneapolis—play a style that blends grunge, a little bit of emo, and some of the guileless instrumental rush of early punk. Guitarist Kathy Callahan’s alternately clear and gritty voice predominates, but they often break into pristine two- and three-part harmonies.

Gully Boys recorded their debut album, *Not So Brave*, at Pachyderm Studios in Cannon Falls, one of the most famous studio complexes in the state, frequented by folks like Hippo Campus, Low, and PJ Harvey. The booking manager at Mortimer’s, one



ERIC DIMAC

of their favorite local venues, connected them with Nick Tveitbakk at Pachyderm, who engineered the album.

Artists will often hole up at Pachyderm for weeks at a time, but the sessions for *Not So Brave* lasted one weekend.

“We got there on Friday night and recorded from right when we got there until early morning hours on Sunday,” says bassist Natalie Klemond.

Recording ran on a whirlwind timeline: They got to the studio at 7 p.m. on Friday, spent some time taking levels and getting things set, and started recording around 9. They recorded until midnight, doing about three songs. Then they started recording again at about 10:30 the next morning and went until 1 or 2 a.m. They listened back and got rough mixes on Sunday morning.

Gully Boys’ only previous release is a three-song self-titled EP from about a year

ago, and the group had built up a stockpile of songs since then that either required or enabled them (depending on your outlook) to be picky about what they recorded.

“We went in with one that we weren’t going to do, that we ended up being like, ‘We really wanna do this,’ and we happened to have an extra half hour, and we were like, ‘We can do it in one take, we promise,’” says Klemond.

They got the take.

The recording might sound like a scramble, but all of it—the tight deadline, recording live and fast, was in line with the band’s desired aesthetic.

“He [Tveitbakk] asked, ‘Do you guys want to sound pretty produced?’ And we were like, ‘No,’” Klemond says.

“I feel like that’s lying,” McGill says. “That’s not what we sound like when you come see us live. We’re not a very



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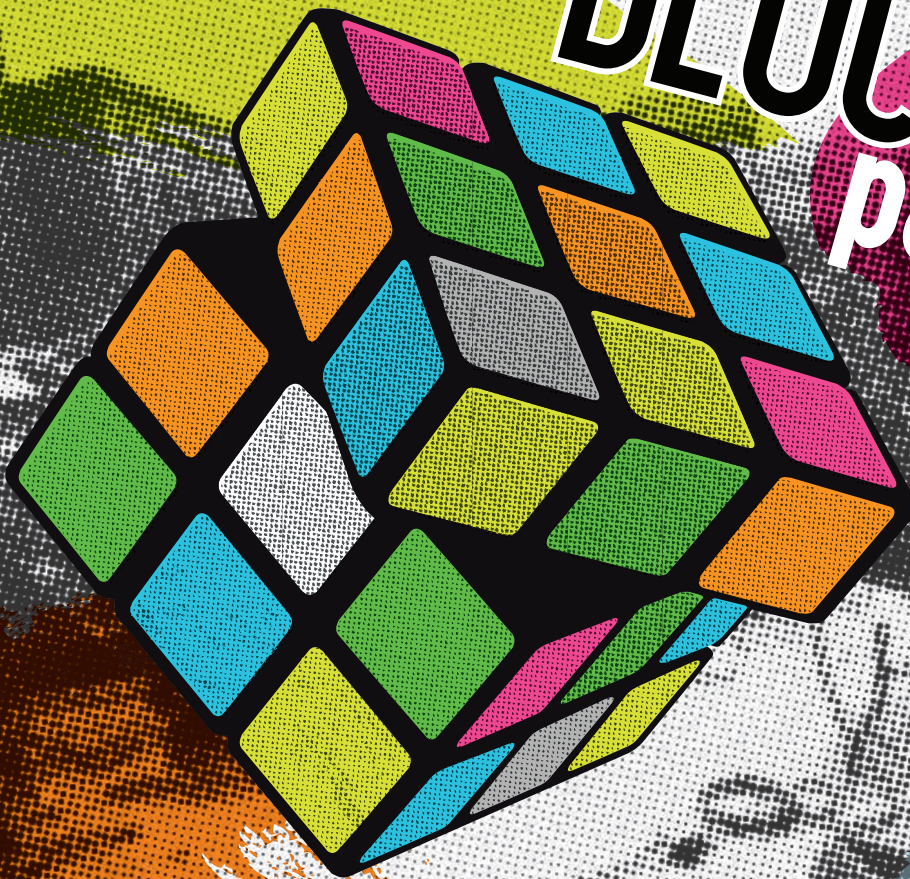
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polished, clean band."

Although each Gully Boy separately harbored the desire to play music, they characterize this as their first serious project. Klemond and Callahan have known each other since middle school, and McGill and Callahan worked at Ragstock together. "We used to talk about music all the time, and how we aspired to be musicians," McGill says. "We were like, 'Oh, we can all half-ass play an instrument, let's try to play together.'"

"We literally jammed and were like, 'OK, we're in a band now,'" McGill says.

It'd be going a little too far to characterize Gully Boys as novices, however. McGill recalls playing in orchestra as a kid and starting college with an intended major in vocal performance. Klemond says she tried a number of instruments when she was younger and played in jazz band through school.

"I'd always wanted to play the drums, because my mom wouldn't let me," McGill says. When she got a place of her own, she started practicing on her now-ex's kit.

The band found a sound for themselves the old-fashioned way—through covers, of Hole, Metric, No Doubt, and Best Coast. Then they figured out how to copy what they liked, and eventually how to move past copying entirely. In fact, after they covered Best Coast, they learned they didn't want to sound like Bethany Cosentino's band.

"We had decided, 'Okay, this is a sound we don't want to make,' but, subconsciously, our first song we wrote was super surf-y, like '50s," McGill says.

"You cover stuff and then you immediately write stuff that is very similar to it," Klemond says.

The Gullies remember the first good song they wrote, in part because they literally named it "The Good One."

"We loved it," McGill says. "We were all like, 'Oh my God, it's so gritty and percussive.... We added this slow, three-part harmony breakdown, and we were like 'This is cool.' And then we played it a few times, and we were like, 'Actually, this song sucks.'"

Not So Brave features material both new and old, including re-recordings of two of the tracks from their previous EP, showing the group's progression.

"There's this cool thing where we have songs from two years ago on it, and then we have songs that we wrote several weeks ago, two weeks before recording," Klemond says. "We used to be very '90s grunge, Hole covers, and now we're more melodic."

"You can hear our confidence growing as musicians," McGill says.

After their album release show at the 7th St. Entry on August 12, Gully Boys will embark on their first major tour—11 dates, taking them first to Wisconsin and Illinois, and then down a big curve across the south, ending in Austin, Texas. They have a lot to

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look forward to. At the time of our interview, the Gullies were still choosing the name for their album—I learned the final title via email a few days later—and they sounded a little sheepish.

“We work best when there’s an incredible amount of stress,” McGill said.

“It’s gonna have a really good name, whatever it is,” Klemmond said. ☐

CRITICS’ PICKS

SUNNY SWEENEY

CABOOZE, SATURDAY 8.11

Though her 2011 album *Concrete* and its singles remain her closest brush with true country stardom, Sunny Sweeney has been making worthwhile music ever since, moving between traditional and contemporary styles on songs co-written with masters like Lori McKenna and Angaleena Presley. Last year’s *Trophy* was musically low-key but full of memorable lyricism, particularly on “Bottle By My Bed,” a heartfelt song about infertility. Saturday marks Sweeney’s third performance in the Twin Cities in 13 months. With Ward Davis and Tennessee Jet. 18+. 9:30 p.m. \$20-\$100. 917 Cedar Ave., Minneapolis; 612-338-6425.

—MICHAEL MADDEN

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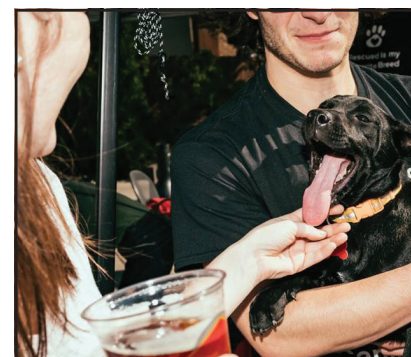
TURF CLUB, SUNDAY 8.12

Singer and guitarist Scott “Wino” Weinrich is an all-around deity of heavy music. He helped pioneer doom-metal upon joining Saint Vitus in 1986 amid the band’s seminal run on SST Records, and he’s remained prolific ever since, juggling membership in multiple bands along with solo music. In recent years, he’s made a Townes Van Zandt tribute album with Neurosis’ Scott Kelly and Steve Von Till, and he reformed his first band, the Obsessed, releasing their first album in 23 years with 2017’s bluesy *Sacred*. With Xasthur and Paul Metzger. 21+. 7 p.m. \$15/\$17. 1601 University Ave., St. Paul; 651-647-0486. —MICHAEL MADDEN

LIL UZI VERT

MYTH, TUESDAY 8.14

Lil Uzi Vert is a rap superstar with eccentric cult-artist tendencies, inspired by the spirit of guys like Marilyn Manson and GG Allin. Arguably the face of so-called “mumble rap,” the 24-year-old Philadelphia native has little to no use for conventional rap technique or ambitious lyricism, favoring playful flows and kinetic energy while working closely with producers Don Cannon and Maaly Raw. Uzi is also a daredevil live performer, regularly going viral on the internet thanks to fearless stage dives and other stunts. 8 p.m. \$47.50. 3090 Southlawn Dr., St. Paul; 651-779-6984. —MICHAEL MADDEN



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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Breznysy

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Palestinian American writer Susan Abulhawa writes that in the Arab world, to say a mere “thank you” is regarded as spiritless and ungenerous. The point of communicating gratitude is to light up with lively and expressive emotions that respond in kind to the kindness bestowed. For instance, a recipient may exclaim, “May Allah bless the hands that give me this blessing.” or “Beauty is in the eyes that find me beautiful.” In accordance with current astrological omens, I propose that you experiment with this approach. Be specific in your praise. Be exact in your appreciation. Acknowledge the unique mood and meaning of each rich exchange.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you need this advice from mythologist Joseph Campbell: “Your sacred space is where you can find yourself again and again.” He says it’s “a rescue land . . . some field of action where there is a spring of ambrosia—a joy that comes from inside, not something external that puts joy into you—a place that lets you experience your own will and your own intention and your own wish.” Do you have such a place, Taurus? If not, now is a great time to find one. If you do, now is a great time to go there for a spell and renew the hell out of yourself.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): When he was 20 years old, future U.S. President Thomas Jefferson had an awkward encounter with a young woman who piqued his interest. He was embarrassed by the gracelessness he displayed. For two days afterward, he endured a terrible headache. We might speculate that it was a psychosomatic reaction. I bring this up because I’m wondering if your emotions are also trying to send coded messages to you via your body. Are you aware of unusual symptoms or mysterious sensations? See if you can trace them back to their source in your soul.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): There’s a zone in your psyche where selfishness overlaps generosity, where the line between being emotionally manipulative and gracefully magnanimous almost disappears. With both hope and trepidation for the people in your life, I advise you to hang out in that gray area for now. Yes, it’s a risk. You could end up finessing people mostly for your own good and making them think it’s mostly for their own good. But the more likely outcome is that you will employ ethical abracadabra to bring out the best in others, even as you get what you want, too.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You probably gaze at the sky enough to realize when there’s a full moon. But you may not monitor the heavenly cycles closely enough to tune in to the new moon, that phase each month when the lunar orb is invisible. We astrologers regard it as a ripe time to formulate fresh intentions. We understand it to be a propitious moment to plant metaphorical seeds for the desires you want to fulfill in the coming four weeks. When this phenomenon happens during the astrological month of Leo, the potency is intensified for you. Your next appointment with this holiday is August 10th and 11th.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In her poem “Dogfish,” Virgo poet Mary Oliver writes, “I wanted the past to go away, I wanted to leave it.” Why? Because she wanted her life “to open like a hinge, like a wing.” I’m happy to tell you, Virgo, that you now have more power than usual to make your past go away. I’m also pleased to speculate that as you perform this service for yourself, you’ll be skillful enough to preserve the parts of your past that inspire you, even as you shrink and neutralize memories that drain you. In response to this good work, I bet your life will open like a hinge, like a wing—no later than your birthday, and most likely before that.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Libran fashion writer Diana Vreeland (1903-1989) championed the beauty of the strong nose. She didn’t approve of women wanting to look like “pigelets and kittens.” If she were alive today, she’d be pleased that nose jobs in the U.S. have declined 43 percent since 2000. According to journalist Madeleine Schwartz writing in *Garage* magazine, historians of rhinoplasty say there has been a revival of appreciation for the distinctive character revealed in an unaltered nose. I propose, Libra, that in accordance with current astrological omens, we extrapolate some even bigger inspiration from that marvelous fact. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to celebrate and honor and express pride in your idiosyncratic natural magnificence.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): “Maybe happiness is this: not feeling like you should be elsewhere, doing something else, being someone else.” This definition, articulated by author Isaac Asimov, will be an excellent fit for you between now and September 20. I suspect you’ll be unusually likely to feel at peace with yourself and at home in the world. I don’t mean to imply that every event will make you cheerful and calm. What I’m saying is that you will have an extraordinary capacity to make clear decisions based on accurate appraisals of what’s best for you.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I’ve compiled a list of new blessings you need and deserve during the next 14 months. To the best of my ability, I will assist you to procure them. Here they are: a practical freedom song and a mature love song; an exciting plaything and a renaissance of innocence; an evocative new symbol that helps mobilize your evolving desires; escape from the influence of a pest you no longer want to answer to; insights about how to close the gap between the richest and poorest parts of yourself; and the cutting of a knot that has hindered you for years.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): “It has become clear to me that I must either find a willing nurturer to cuddle and nuzzle and whisper sweet truths with me for six hours or else seek sumptuous solace through the aid of eight shots of whiskey.” My Capricorn friend Tammuz confided that message to me. I wouldn’t be surprised if you were feeling a comparable tug. According to my assessment of the Capricorn zeitgeist, you acutely need the revelations that would become available to you through altered states of emotional intelligence. A lavish whoosh of alcohol might do the trick, but a more reliable and effective method would be through immersions in intricate, affectionate intimacy.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Not even 5 percent of the world’s population lives in a complete democracy. Congratulations to Norway, Canada, Australia, Finland, Ireland, Iceland, Denmark, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Sweden. Sadly, three countries where my column is published—the U.S., Italy, and France—are categorized as “flawed democracies.” Yet they’re far better than the authoritarian regimes in China and Russia. (Source: The Economist.) I offer this public service announcement as a prelude to your homework assignment. According to my astrological analysis, you will personally benefit from working to bring more democracy into your personal sphere. How can you ensure that people you care about feel equal to you, and have confidence that you will listen to and consider their needs, and believe they have a strong say in shaping your shared experiences?

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mystic poet Kabir wrote, “The flower blooms for the fruit: When the fruit comes, the flower withers.” He was invoking a metaphor to describe his spiritual practice and reward. The hard inner work he did to identify himself with God was the blooming flower that eventually made way for the fruit. The fruit was his conscious, deeply felt union with God. I see this scenario as applicable to your life, Pisces. Should you feel sadness about the flower’s withering? It’s fine to do so. But the important thing is that you now have the fruit. Celebrate it! Enjoy it!

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6pm : drinking liberally minneapolis presents:
professor mark osler
9:30pm : thursdays in august with:
gabe barnett & them rounders
with dua

fri : august 10
7pm : laura and sean's
movie and music trivia
10pm : blaha,
cysters, the cult of lip

sat : august 11
7pm : trivia mafia presents
331 drinkin' spelling bee
10pm : fistful of datas, sweat boys

sun : august 12
2-4pm : dr. sketchy's anti-art school
8pm : trivia mafia

mon : august 13
8pm : the roe family singers
10pm : doug otto and friends

tue : august 14
7-9pm : t.e.e. tuesday early evening
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CHILL OUT

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

- 1 Thing that goes through loops
5 Positive terminal
10 Comfy shoes
14 Juan's yesterday
15 Stud horses
16 Motorcycle brand named after a Russian mountain range
17 Do followers
18 One who always takes things the wrong way
20 Cold War threat
22 “But let’s consider,” initially
23 Sweet spread
24 Nutty Thanksgiving side dish
27 Flat pancake
29 Party hack
30 Mumbai-to-Kolkata dir.
31 Left the harbor
32 Make the switch?
34 “Lips ____ Movin” (Meghan Trainor song)
36 Brian who said “It’s not the destination that matters. It’s the change of scene.”
37 Boxes that stick out of certain frames in the summer, and a hint to this puzzle
41 Smell from a diaper genie
42 Go kaput
43 Barbecue skewer
46 Tar’s back
49 Gentle touch
51 It’s home to roughly 16% of the Earth’s population: Abbr.

- 52 “Don’t Pass Me By” singer
53 Beat author who came up with the tiles for “Howl” and “Naked Lunch”
56 Jrs. and srs.
57 Device you can use with an Apple Pencil
59 Performance with recitative
60 Almost as good as the best
64 “Smack That” rapper
65 Eye feature
66 Epically awful
67 Penny
68 Messy sandwich
69 Follows closely
70 Ship ropes

Down

- 1 Drinks all over town
2 Part that gets penciled
3 Used protection?
4 Makes a few edits
5 Throw out there
6 Soccer shutout
7 Cookies that come in lemon and birthday cake flavors
8 Pool measurement
9 ____ perpetua
10 Silent
11 Gum relief brand
12 Classic filled
13 hors d'oeuvre
15 Covered with ooze
19 “Let me!,” melodramatically
21 Hwy. that goes by Dumbo
25 Rice bowl option
26 Flying start

- 28 Scenes of unrest
31 “Where The Wild Things Are” author
33 Pied ____ (“Silicon Valley” startup)
35 Fleeced mama
38 Tough guy Chuck
39 Liable to offend
40 Opener for a guest
44 “Personally speaking,...”
45 And they’re off
46 Safe haven
47 Made an effort
48 Mortarboard dangler
50 Game show hosted by Kevin Hart
53 Biblical guy with a ladder
54 Document Cloud company
55 Number of days that a solar year differs from a lunar year
58 Colombian green
61 Dinner invitation?
62 Turning down word
63 Deg. for a calculus expert

Last Week’s Answer

A	B	C	B		J	A	N	E	T		D	O	C
N	O	F	A	T		K	R	U	P	A		O	R
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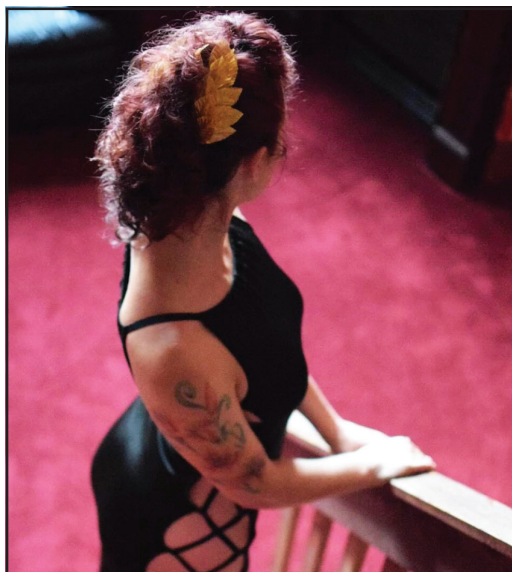
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Hormonal to Horny

Off the pill and out of control

I'm a 27-year-old woman, and I've been sexually active and on birth control since I was 16—almost always on the pill. I recently switched to the NuvaRing, which I had a bad reaction to: no libido at all and extreme mood swings. I decided to go off hormonal birth control, and so far it's been a mix of good and bad. My moods are more even, and my libido came back—but in a way I wasn't expecting. My sexual appetite is insane. I want to have sex with everyone! Men, women, friends, colleagues, acquaintances. My boyfriend has been amazing through all of this. He's agreed to let us open up our relationship under specific terms. I agree with the terms we placed, but I still feel like my urges are going to get me in trouble—especially if alcohol is involved. Is this normal? Can removing a cocktail of hormones from my life really change me this much? I don't want to blame it all on the birth control, but it was the only variable in my life that changed in the last couple of months. I want to be faithful to my boyfriend, who has been great and understanding—allowing us to open our relationship to casual encounters with strangers. But I'm feeling sexual connections to so many more people now, and often to people I've known for a while. I see this all as mostly positive, but the adjustment has been strange and difficult to wrap my head around.

SUDDENLY HORNY AND
GOING GAGA ISN'T NORMAL



Dan Savage

"I'm so glad to hear this woman sees the increase in her libido as positive," said Dr. Meredith Chivers, an associate professor of psychology at Queen's University and renowned sex researcher. "At the same time, I understand how overwhelming these urges can feel, especially when they are new."

Luckily for you, SHAGGIN, you're with someone who's secure enough to let you feel the fuck out these new feelings. Another example of your good luck? Dr. Chivers is about to give you the Actual Science Download on hormonal birth control.

"It's difficult to say what is normal

when it comes to the effects of hormonal contraception (HC) on women's sexual interest," Chivers said. But lots of women have stopped using hormonal contraception for the exact same reason you did: worries about their libido—and there is some indirect evidence that HC can negatively impact a woman's desire for sex.

"The NuvaRing is a combined hormonal contraceptive containing synthetic estrogens and progestins (the same as many birth control pills)," said Chivers. "HC like the NuvaRing works, in part, by raising and stabilizing progesterone levels throughout the menstrual cycle, which helps to prevent ovulation and implantation."

And it's those stabilized progesterone levels that could be the culprit.

"Progesterone is one of the hormones involved in the menstrual cycle and pregnancy; levels are highest in the week before menstruation (called the luteal phase) and are also high during pregnancy," Chivers said.

"A recent, large-scale study reported that women with higher progesterone—women who weren't using HC—had lower sexual interest, on average. Because using HC is associated with reductions in sexual interest, we could predict that stopping HC, and thus progesterone levels returning to more typical lower levels, could be associated with increases in sexual motivation.

"Given that she has been using some form of HC since she became sexually active, my guess is that she's never had the chance to experience her sexuality while naturally cycling," Chivers said. "Part of her process could be learning about her unmedicated hormonal cycle, her sexuality, and the variations in her sex drive."

The last word goes to Dr. Chivers: Whether you're with others or sexually exclusive with your boyfriend, "Have fun!"

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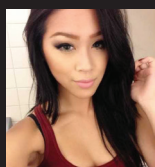
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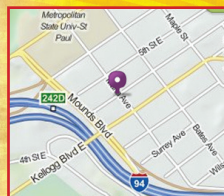


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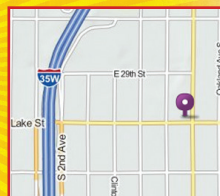
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Email submission to TurboTimArt@gmail.com

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